

necessarily as effects follow their causes. (From a bill relating¹ to crimes and punishment, 1779. F. II., 205.)

LAWS.—The instability of our laws is really an immense evil. I think it would be well to provide in our constitutions that there shall always be a twelve-month between the engrossing a bill and passing it, and if circumstances should be thought to require a speedier passage, it should take two-thirds of both houses instead of a bare majority. (To James Madison, 1787. F. IV., 480.)

LAWS.—I agree in an almost limited condemnation of retrospective laws. The few instances of wrong which they redress are so overweighted by the insecurity they draw over all property and even over life itself and by the atrocious violation of both to which they lead, that it is better to live under the evil than the remedy. (From an opinion on Soldiers' Accounts, 1790. F. V., 176.)

LAWS.—But can laws be made unchangeable? Can one generation bind another, and all others, in succession forever? I think not. The Creator has made the earth for the living, not for the dead. Rights and powers can only belong to persons, not to things, not to* mere matter, unendowed with will. The dead are not even things. The particles of matter which composed their bodies, make part now of the bodies of other animals, vegetables, or minerals, of a thousand forms. To what then are attached the rights and powers they hold while in the form of men? A generation may bind itself as long as its majority continues in life; when that has disappeared another majority is in place, holds all the rights and powers their predecessors once held, and may change their laws and institutions to suit themselves. Nothing then is unchangeable but the inherent and unalienable rights of men. (To John Cartwright, 1824. C. VII., 359.)

LAWYERS OF NEW ENGLAND.—But was there ever a profound common lawyer known in any of the Eastern States? There never was, nor never can be one from those States. The basis of their law is neither common nor civil; it is an original, if any compound can so be called. Its foundation seems to have